

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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AUG 30 2004
RMR S-40

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Pg 1 of 2

Public Comment Form

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written comments or suggestions during public review of any project. Please submit written comments to: **Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: <Name of Project>)**. Written comments may also be faxed to: (209) 379-1294. Electronic comments may be transmitted to: **yose_planning@nps.gov** (in the subject line type: <Name of Project>).

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. If you do not want your name or/and address to be subject to public disclosure, please state that at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Generally, National Park Service will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses.

Project Name: _____
(Please use a separate form or sheet of paper for each project you are commenting on)

Name: _____ **Date of Comment:** 8/25/04

Address: _____ Desert Hot Springs, CA

COMMENTS

I will admit to limited understanding of proposed projects and plans however based on my observations I would like to comment:

It appears there is non restrictive use of the river i.e.

- 1) Horses & non wild animals contaminating river
- 2) Unlimited use by visitors - swimming, rafting, tubing - Much monitoring would be necessary to limit - ? feasibility of having personnel to do this

Possibly increased education of public would help

(Continue comments on back of page)

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SEP 09 2004
RMR 5 58
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Page 1 of 2

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Important - Merced River issues

September 3, 2004 Friday
VERY IMPORTANT - TIME CRUCIAL
ATTN: Revised Merced River Plan / SEIS
Yosemite National Park Superintendent,

I am writing give my comments on Yosemite National Park. I am FOR any plan or changes that will HELP the environment and the wildlife. I am AGAINST hunting, trapping, snaring, oil and gas exploration and drilling, mining, polluters, clear cutting, over commercialization, deforestation, over development, logging, sprawl, and greedy developers in ALL National (and State) Parks and Forests. I think that the United States needs even MORE National (and State) Parks, Forests, Nature Preserves, Historic Sites and Parks, and Wildlife Refuges - soon. I am FOR the strengthening of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. I am FOR the strengthening of environmental laws, rules, regulations and policies and stricter enforcement.

Please help to save and protect God's creatures and the environment. Your help is greatly needed - now. All animals are God's creatures. All animals have both physical and emotional feelings. All animals feel pain, stress and fear.

I ask that you please create and / or use sterilization DRUGS in an edible BAIT type form for animals - this is humane instead of hunting, trapping, snaring, harming and killing the animals. I ask that you please distribute food such as bales of hay for the wildlife throughout areas of the Park during harsh winters. And, I ask that you build WOOD bridges over the lakes and ponds so that the animals will have the option to use these wood bridges instead of crossing the frozen ice and falling through and slowly and painfully freezing to death and dying. Depressing ! Please help ! Thank you for taking the time to read this letter on these very important issues. Thank you !

Sincerely,
a future Yosemite National Park visitor and a California vacationer and a native Houstonian and a member of a few environmental organizations,

HOUSTON, Texas

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SEP 09 2004
 RMR S 58
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
 Page 2 of 2

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
 cc:
 Subject: Possibly Spam: Revised Merced River Plan / SEIS

TIME CRUCIAL - VERY IMPORTANT
 Yosemite National Park Superintendent,

I am FOR the strengthening and strict enforcement of laws, rules, regulations and policies to better help save and protect animals and the environment. I am FOR any plans that are best for the wildlife AND the environment. I am AGAINST logging, oil and gas exploration and drilling, mining, hunting and trapping and snaring, pollution, development, clear cutting, over commercialization, traffic and atv pollution and noise, over development, deforestation, greedy developers and sprawl in ALL National and State Parks and Forests in this country. This country needs even MORE National and State Parks and Forests, wildlife refuges, nature preserves and historical sites and parks. This country needs MORE "Roadless Areas". I am FOR the strengthening of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. I am FOR "wildlife corridors" along / under highways and roadways. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter on these very important issues. Please help to save and protect God's creatures and the environment. All animals are God's creatures. All animals have both physical and emotional feelings. All animals can feel pain, stress and fear. ALL animals should be protected in ALL National and State Parks and Forests. Your help is greatly needed - now. Thank you!

Sincerely,
 a native Houstonian, a future Yosemite vacationer, a California vacationer, a National Parks and Forests visitor, and a member of environmental organizations,

HOUSTON, Texas

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SEP 09 2004
RmR S 57
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To: yose_planning@NPS.gov
cc:
Subject: Merced River Plan Extended Scoping Time

To NPS Planning;

Thank you for extending the scoping period for the Merced River Plan. This extra time allows people to further comment on this vital subject. I would argue that the Merced River Plan needs to be formed from and based on looking at and protecting the "Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)". The final product/edition of the Merced River Plan should be a river plan that fulfills the mandate to protect and enhance the river's values. Such a final product/edition ("a revised Merced River Plan") would result from the NPS Merced River Plan Planning team to start with the ORVs, determine their locations, what affects them, and how to protect them. The Merced River Plan should not be used as a tool to allow development plans. In conclusion, a final/revised Merced River Plan needs to be presented by the NPS Merced River Plan Planning team. Such a plan should clearly establish the importance of the river's ORVs. The final plan would not degrade the ORVs, but would place primary attention on protecting the river's esthetic, scenic, historic, archaeologic, and scientific features. Thank you,

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RECEIVED
SEP 09 2004
RmR 5 56
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Public scoping for Revised Merced River Plan

Sirs:

I am hoping that my thoughts are not too late for consideration. My main point is for all of us to remember that Yosemite is a National Park that should be not only protected but should be completely accessible to the people of this nation (as well as being the number one tourist feature in the west for international visitors). In order to have us as citizens enjoy the valley of Yosemite, you must forego the ideal of a wild and scenic river for approximately two miles of that river's course (from the bridge between the entrances of Upper and Lower Pines campgrounds to Yellow Pine/Sentinel Beach bridge) to allow for rafting/floating during the heavily visited summer months. You cannot have this mass of public just riding around and around on the buses trying to find something to experience when the quiet river is there for families to enjoy while soaking up the spectacular scenery. This is the stuff that memories are made from and to exclude camping and waterplay from us is very narrow-minded and unfair. We lost 2/3 of our hard-to-get campsites during the flood and have not gotten them back for the sake of the 'wild and scenic' - enough is enough.

Santa Ana, CA

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SEP 09 2004
RM R S-S
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: PUBLIC SCOPING---

I first saw Yosemite on my Honeymoon way back in 1949. That was the start of my love affair with Yosemite. Through the years we returned often to that very special place. My last visit with my husband was in 1998 as I brought him one last time. After his death I thought I would never return---but I have. How could I not?

Through the years I have seen too many changes I feel have been detrimental. The latest is the Lower Yosemite Falls project. I fail to find the "improvements".

But since that is now history I would like to comment on what I feel will seriously impact the Merced River.

PLEASE reconsider moving Northside Drive. As I see it, the new road will be much closer to the Merced. How can this be a good thing? It simply makes little or no sense at all. The reasons I have heard for moving Northside Drive will not change congestion as people will still cross the new road to "see" the river. It is a no win situation and I would ask that you reconsider this proposal.

I also don't understand how you have closed entire campgrounds due to the "flood". Those campgrounds still remain intact and didn't wash away. But yet you now plan to enlarge and improve a very undesirable and dusty campground---namely Camp 4. I was around when that campground was nothing more than a haven for some climbers and Park bums and now due to lobbying by the elite rock climbers you are perpetuating Camp 4. It is simply not fair to close so many campgrounds. Camping shouldn't consist of cement pads complete with all sorts of amenities for huge Motor homes to supposedly "camp".

Had it not been for old Camp 14 we could not have afforded to bring our children to experience Yosemite. They will always have those memories to cherish. Please reconsider opening some of those campgrounds while still protecting the Merced.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions.
Sincerely,

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SEP 09 2004
RMR SBH
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: merced river plan/SEIS

It would be very helpful if you would restore some, or all of The River Campsites. If you have ever tried to make a reservation for The Pines Campsites, then you know how frustrating it is to get a campsite on the valley floor. Loosing half the sites in 1997 has made getting a reservation extremely difficult. This year, on January, and February 15th, at 7am Pacific time, my father and I were using the internet, and phone system, trying to make a reservation, and were not able to get through. After trying for 3 hours, we gave up.
We need more campsites!

Thanks,

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SEP 09 2004
RMA S-53
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To: Yose_Planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Wild and Scenic Comments

As an avid rock climber, ecologist, and environmentalist, I appreciate the fine balance that must exist between resource conservation and recreational use. My comments here are to address the issue of visitor use density in the river corridor and potential impacts by climbers. I don't know whether climbing (or parking to access cliffs) in the lower Merced canyon area (e.g., Arch Rock, Cookie Cliff, Pat & Jack) would be impacted by setting user limits. My view is that climbers have little or no impact on the "view shed" of people utilizing the riparian resources (fishing, kayaking, nature studies, etc.). Climbers are either hidden in the trees or are suspended in walls 100s of feet above the riparian corridor, thus are quite removed from any potential impact on users of the riparian resources. I understand that parking in this narrow section of the canyon can be tenuous during peak season and is often immediately adjacent to the river. However, unless the Park Service is willing and able to relocate the highway to a location that is outside the lower canyon, I cannot see that the impact of parked cars would negatively impact the user experience any more than the current stream of RVs and tour buses that currently use the highway. My final comment addresses climber access to cliffs on the south side of the canyon (e.g. The Rostrum) via wading the Merced River during times of low water in the late summer and early fall. The number of individuals that access these cliffs is very small, and their presence in the riparian corridor is extremely brief (1 to 5 minutes in each direction). Because the sum time for all individuals in the riparian corridor for accessing the southern cliffs is negligible, I feel this activity should not be regulated as having an impact on user density.

Thank you,

East Hartford, CT

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SEP 09 2004
 RmR S-5
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
 RmR-S-52

To: yose_planning@nps.gov

Subject: MRP Revision Scoping Comments

I have the following comments regarding the establishment of the El Portal boundaries:

1. The boundaries in El Portal should exclude the Hwy 140 corridor. I believe this is State owned land.
2. I find it ironic that Hwy 140 is a California Scenic Highway yet the El Portal area does not have scenic as an ORV.
3. The plan should address whatever agreements are in place with Mariposa County for the Incline Road and the upper part of Foresta Road. These are county maintained roads. Is the land county owned?
4. The plan should address agreements with PG&E, SBC and El Portal Cable TV. All have facilities and rights of way within the river corridor.
5. The plan should address any agreements that are in place for the management of recreational use on the river. BLM manages rafting and has a register at the Red Bud Launch Site. The State Dept. of Fish and Game stocks the river with fish and has special regulations on fishing in the El Portal area.

I have the following comments on carrying capacities:

1. The plan needs to clarify whether carrying capacities include the employees and residents within the boundaries or just recreational users.
2. I suggest adopting the GMP capacities for the various segments of the river. These capacities were in place when the river was designated and in my opinion the ORVs have not suffered under these limits. In fact, there have been substantial improvements in the condition of meadows and forested areas in the Valley and streambanks in the Valley campground areas.
3. Since VERP never gets to a number it is inappropriate to use it as a means of addressing carrying capacity, which in my opinion is a number. VERP should be used as a tool to continually monitor impacts to ORVs.
4. Under VERP indicators and standards are established then monitored. In my opinion, there should be public review and comment of the standards when they are established. For example, one of the indicators in the present VERP program is the number of encounters in trailed and untrailed areas. I believe the public should have had the opportunity to comment on how many encounters with other parties are acceptable in trailed and untrailed areas.
- 5.

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SEP 09 2004
RMR S-51
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Merced River Plan

NPS,
Leave the river plan in tact. We went to several of the meetings and updates. The adopted plan was excellent with enough balance to include everyone in the parks activities.
This was supposed to be a wilderness park for people to enjoy for its spectacular beauty. People who want entertainment can go to dozens of theme parks, water slides and other places offering "thrills". The NPS is already offering more services with no protection and a reduced budget.
Sincerely,

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Public Comment Form

SEP 08 2004
Rmr S SD
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written comments or suggestions during public review of any project. Please submit written comments to: **Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: <Name of Project>)**. Written comments may also be faxed to: (209) 379-1294. Electronic comments may be transmitted to: yose_planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: <Name of Project>).

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Project Name: invalid Revised Merced River Plan
(Please use a separate form or sheet of paper for each project you are commenting on)

Name: _____

Date of Comment: 9/1/04

Address: _____

Woodlands Arts Co

COMMENTS

You received approx 200 million to bring back the Yosemite valley & other areas to augment camping. You have carefully raped the camping sites & now you're planning to close no rivers! Your agenda is a blatant disregard to the wishes of those who have camped in the valley for years! You only listen to the obtuse sierra club who are anti camping. We have read your MNR comprehensive plan, what a laugh! Two pages of unmitigated double talk! Reading between the lines you are saying you are about to close the park to campers (tent trailers etc). You're going to bus all visitors in & out (of course you will be polluting the air quality). IT APPEARS THAT YOUR DESIRE IS TO HAVE THE WHOLE PARK FOR YOUR PERSONAL playground. IN MY OPINION YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A BAND OF CLEVER THIEVES WHOSE GOAL IS TO ROB

(Continue comments on back of page)

ME & MINE of the opportunity to enjoy camping in the valley
 AS WE HAVE for the last 45 yrs. the gun you hold us up with
 is the gun of the bureaucratic NPS of the US Dept. of int.
 SHAME ON YOU for ABUSING the system
 THIS IS NOT THE last letter I (we) HAVE SENT. you have NOT
 EVER RESPONDED to ANY letter. You ARE playing us for fools
 Maybe that one day the Legislature will get wise & dump
 your collective RUMPS IN THE TRASH.

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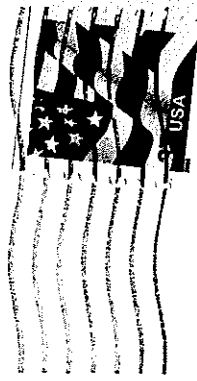
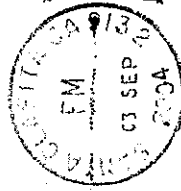
Copy to SEN. Feinstein
 To a BOXER
 To Dept of int

SEP 08 2004
 KMR SSD
 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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Woodland Hills, CA 91364-2440

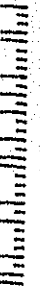


Mered Wild
& Scenic River
Plan

Yosemite Nat. Park
PO Box 577, Yosemite Ca
95389

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SEP 08 2004
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



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MERCED RIVER SEIS SOUTH FORK CARRYING CAPACITY

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SEP 08 2004
RMR 5 49
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Page 1 of 2

9/8/04

Wawona, CA

The Merced River, South Fork, has its headwaters, I believe, near Mt. Raymond and the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Just below the inlet pipe for the Wawona Water District it turns into a distinctly recreational area, used by fisher persons and swimmers/ picnickers all the way down to the South Fork bridge and highway 41. This area is the course of the river which sees the most usage due to the proximity of the hotel, PYHC, covered bridge, and NPS picnic areas and campground along its banks. From the South Fork bridge it broadens out, becomes shallower, and flows west until it gets into the narrow gorge of Hites Cove, and comes out at Savages on highway 140 to join the North fork.

I believe carrying capacity relates to the use of the land over which the river flows. I don't see how it is possible to separate land and water usage as they are intertwined so perfectly. With this in mind then, there must be 3 separate zones for the South Fork's carrying capacity. The first is definitely part of Yosemite's wilderness, and a capacity can be described by tallying the number of wilderness permits for that area, adding to this an appropriate number for day use hikers and non registered backpackers. The second capacity zone would be the recreational portion of the river as described above. The river's banks in this zone are used for residences, NPS picnic areas, PYHC, the Wawona Hotel, and Wawona Campground. By tallying these campers and day users, we should be able to reach a carrying capacity for each land entity on the river, and this in turn would become the absolute carrying capacity for the river in this zone. The final zone for the South Fork, should be the river as it flows west, beyond the campground, and down to join the North Fork at highway 140. It seems to me that this, again, is a wilderness experience river, and the capacity should reflect the relatively small number of users, or those hardy enough to even gain access. With the exception of the Hites Cove hiking trail, there are no established trails on this stretch of the river and the terrain around it is rough and steep and not very welcoming to human intrusion. I would think that by adding a small percentage of users to the documented number of hikers on the Hite's Cove trail, we would be able to describe an adequate capacity for this portion of the Merced So. Fork.

By carefully documenting land usages on the separate zones of the South Fork, I believe a carrying capacity for the river can be described. Certainly, zones one and three will not ever see even a small percentage of the usage that zone two endures. This means carrying capacity becomes critical for zone two, since it alone faces the maximum amount of ORV degradation by the very nature of its use.

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SEP 08 2004
RmR S 49
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Page 2 of 2

Public Scoping Comment - Merced Wild & Scenic River
Revised Comprehensive Management Plan/SEIS

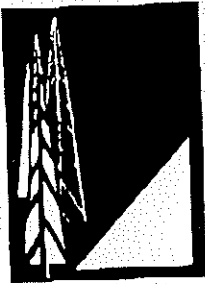
Wawona, CA 95389

September 3, 2004

The problem of attributing a carrying capacity for the Merced river must address the close relationship of the river to the land around it. The two are inseparable. In this case you have the ORV's of a wild and scenic river which must not and cannot be degraded by overuse. Personally the ORV which is most important to me is the visual beauty of the river in all of its seasons. As a writer, I find both forks of the Merced to be inspiring. So it is quiet beauty which I enjoy the most. Not much impact there...but what about swimmers, fisher folk, and boaters? The Park must be reaching its own capacity as we move toward 5 million visitors per year. Hopefully, not all of these visitors will be trampling the flora along the river shore. But there are those, of course, who consider a river experience an integral part of their visit. Of the 81 miles of river, roughly 50 miles winds its way through Yosemite's wilderness....say from its head waters to the top of Nevada Falls. The ORV's of this stretch of the wilderness are entirely wild and scenic and its utilization can be determined by the number of wilderness permits and camping permits in little Yosemite Valley that are used each year. Once you've filled up those campgrounds and trails, that is an excellent indicator of the point at which everyone's enjoyment will be curtailed and the environment will degrade. That number or calculation then is the carrying capacity for that stretch of the Merced. Once you get to the bottom of Vernal Fall, the character of river use becomes mostly recreational. Again, by taking a calculation of boating, camping, day use, swimming and fishing and hiking done in the stretch of river between Vernal and Pohono, a valid calculation of capacity of the river can be determined. Using a figure of 5 million allowable visitors can create some sense of absolute capacity before environmental harm for both the valley and river. From Pohono down to El Portal the river's use is mostly scenic. It winds its way through a steep canyon and is protected on both sides by granite exfoliation and rip rap. Its main value is the vistas it provides visitors following 140 into the valley. The carrying capacity at this point then is the carrying capacity of the highway itself, since there is little possibility for any environmental degradation to a solid granite river with little vegetation that is carved into a steep canyon. Keeping in mind these 3 zones of the river and their different uses, I believe a valid carrying capacity can be calculated based upon documented uses of the land that surrounds it. Once these numbers of usage have been surpassed, the surplus represents degradation of the ORV's, the quality of the Yosemite experience, the Merced river, and of course, the Park itself.

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WAWONA AREA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2023 • Wawona, CA 95389 • www.wawona-yosemite.org

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President

September 9, 2004

Mr. Mike Tollefson
Yosemite National Park Superintendent
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Re: Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS

Dear Mr. Tollefson,

Please accept the following remarks in response to the National Park Service's (NPS's) request for scoping comments on the Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS.

The Public notice issued on August 5, 2004 cites that, "The specific purpose of the Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS is to (1) address user capacities in the Merced River Corridor, and (2) reassess the river boundary in El Portal based on an evaluation of Outstandingly Remarkable Values in this segment. The revised plan will also amend the park's 1980 General Management Plan."

It has been brought to our attention that an evaluation of user capacities in the Merced River Corridor will also include an analysis of capacities of the South Fork of the Merced River as it traverses the community of Wawona. We are very concerned that as the NPS analyzes user capacities along the Merced River's corridors and considers alternatives, that it recognize and respect the language in the Record of Decision (ROD) on the 2000 Merced River Plan pertaining to Wawona. The 2000 Merced River Plan ROD includes specific language with respect to, among other things, restricting development of high-density employee housing by the NPS in Section 35 in Wawona. As the provisions in that ROD pertaining to Wawona were negotiated at length in good faith, we strongly urge that their integrity be retained without compromise.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

President

Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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Public Comment Form

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Project Name: Lower River project
(Please use a separate form or sheet of paper for each project you are commenting on)

Name: _____ **Date of Comment:** 9/2/04

Address: _____

COMMENTS

Lower Rivers should be returned to nature.
Human impact will be Three times worse with
parking there. You got all the rafters plus
House keeping camp. That could be bad plant wise.
Not to mention all of the people wanting to
swim.

(Continue comments on back of page)

WK

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

August 30, 2004
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2004 AUG 31 P 1:26

SEP 2 2004
RMR S 46
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Michael Tollefson, Superintendent
ATTN: Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent Tollefson:

We are pleased to submit the following scoping comments supporting your effort to develop an improved Merced River Plan/SEIS. Our comments refer specifically to the Merced River South Fork but may also apply to other Park locations.

As you are no doubt aware, Management Zoning along the South Fork here in Wawona was a hot-button issue when the Draft Merced River Plan was released in 2000. The Draft Plan proposed to site employee housing along the south side of Forest Drive in Section 35. The area was jointly designated 3A (Camping) and 3C (Park Operations and Administration). In the Merced River Plan Final Draft and the Record of Decision the National Park Service stated that it would site employee housing in Wawona along Forest Drive only if it failed to identify adequate alternative locations. The 3A/3C zoning designation remained unchanged.

It was noted among the many comments submitted to the Draft Plan that proposed employee housing along Forest Drive would roughly double the permanent population of Wawona. We would like to add that doubling the permanent population of Wawona would greatly increase recreational and infrastructure (vehicle traffic, sanitation discharge, etc.) usage along the South Fork. Usage by permanent residents might well dominate usage by visitors. Because employee housing along Forest Drive remains a National Park Service option, usage by both current and future permanent residents, as well as our expanding visitor base should be included in the analysis of South Fork usage.

This year (2004) the National Park Service decided to cancel land exchange negotiations with the Seventh Day Adventist Church that involved a portion of the 3A/3C region along Forest Drive. We understand that a major (and perhaps key) factor in the decision to discontinue the negotiations was discovery of archaeological (i.e. cultural) ORV's in the area under consideration for exchange. We would like to point out that cultural ORV's also may apply to the remaining 3A/3C land along Forest Drive. In fact no development of the 3A/3C land should take place until a detailed cultural ORV survey has been completed. It may be necessary to modify the 3A/3C designation to one or more of the Diverse Visitor Experience Zones such as 2A (Open Space), 2A+ (Undeveloped Open Space), 2B (Discover), or even 2D (Attraction) if the cultural ORV's found in the area contribute substantially to Wawona's historical heritage.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the revised Merced River Plan/SEIS and hope our remarks add to the quality of your effort.

Sincerely,

Wawona, CA 95389

Wawona, CA

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SEP 02 2004
KMR S-46
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Michael Tollefson, Superintendent
Attn: Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389



Yosemite National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Public Comment Form

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Page 1 of 2

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written comments or suggestions during public review of any project. Please submit written comments to: **Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: <Name of Project>).** Written comments may also be faxed to: (209) 379-1294. Electronic comments may be transmitted to: **yose_planning@nps.gov** (in the subject line type: <Name of Project>).

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. If you do not want your name or/and address to be subject to public disclosure, please state that at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Generally, National Park Service will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses.

Project Name: _____

(Please use a separate form or sheet of paper for each project you are commenting on)

Name: _____

Date of Comment: 24 Aug 04

Address: _____

Berkeley CA

COMMENTS

I visit the Park 4-5 times each year often taking friends who are visiting & have never seen it — it's always surprisingly beautiful. I travel up Hwy 140 (Along the Merced River) Because it is so natural & unspoiled. I also like how that Route ~~20~~ tells a little of the story of the creation of the valley — The drama of the River crashing over the Boulders gets more intense as you approach the park — It's just awesome! I support all efforts to keep this area the way it is: natural & relatively unspoiled —

(Continue comments on back of page)

I was recently there and unhappy
to see the expansion of the
motel at El Portal just outside the
entrance to the park —

Its way out of scale & I hope no more
hotels/motels will be built in that area.

And plz — NO fast food Franchises!

Thanks for taking my Comments

24 Aug 04

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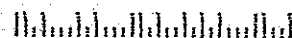
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Superintendent
Yosemite Nat. Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite CA 95389



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Public Scoping Comment Form Merced Wild & Scenic River Revised Comprehensive Management Plan/SEIS

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RmR S-44
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All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide written comments or suggestions during the public scoping period on this project. Written comments may be mailed to: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389 (Attn: Revised Merced River Plan /SEIS). Written comments may also be faxed to: 209/379-1294. Electronic comments may be transmitted to: Yose_Planning@nps.gov (in the subject line type: Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS). Keep track of project status by regularly visiting the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

Note: Anonymous comments will not be considered. If you do not want your name or/and address to be subject to public disclosure, please state that at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Generally, The National Park Service will make available to the public for inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses.

Name: _____

Date of Comment: Aug 26, 2004

Address: _____

Midpines, CA

Comments

RE: CAPACITY USE

I live below Briceburg on the Merced River (since 1980) and watch the River's flow change each year from approximately 11,000 CFS to it's present 35 CFS. I think the public use on and near the River's banks should be tied into this flow change, less usage as the River drops. This includes the commercial raft rental and other businesses on or at the River. Obviously there is more impact from the public with less water. Also, River Rangers who patrol on the water would be helpful.

Thank you

(continue comments on back of page)

Muckpirna, Ca

Superintendent
Yosemite Nat'l Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite
CA

4th: Revised heresed Fair Plan/SEIS



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AUG 30 2004

RmR S-43

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Page 1062

Amy Schneckenburger

To: Mitzi Thornley/YOSE/NPS@NPS, Jeannette
Simons/YOSE/NPS@NPS

08/30/2004 12:28 PM

cc:

PDT

Subject: Fw: Scoping letter for the Merced River Plan

Mitzi, I'm forwarding a scoping letter that was sent to my email address and I'm not sure that it was sent to the scoping address (or anyone else in the park). Please include it as part of the scoping record.

Jeannette, I thought you should be aware that this letter from came in.

Amy

Amy Schneckenburger, FASLA
Office of Project Management
Yosemite National Park
5083 Foresta Road
El Portal, CA 95338

To: Amy_Schneckenburger@nps.gov

cc:

Subject: Scoping letter for the Merced River Plan

August 28.2004

Fresno CA

To National Park Service :

We write this letter concerning the present scoping on amending the Merced River Plan and capacity as ordered.

We site areas of concern as follows:

Our concerns lie in a myriad of issues the first one being Mass transit and tourism.

By your projected figures of increase of visitorship to Yosemite national Park you increase the potential of impacting, and disturbing Cultural Resources and Archeological, Sacred, and traditional sites through development as well as human footprint in Yosemite. You are well aware of these areas but yet you have not taken any action to protect them.

Your plans are not properly addressing the irreversibe harm to ancient, cultural, historic, or ethnographic sites within the Valley, especially along the Merced River Corridor.

Native sites will definately be impacted, harmed, as well as removed by this plan. Some have already been removed and irreversibly damaged due to development designated in the YVP.

Tour busses spew diesel.

The impact on air quality would suffer.

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Page 2 of 2

AUG 30 2004

RmR - 5-43

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

With added pollution hanging within the valley floor also one could expect impacts to plantlife as well as wildlife.

Wildlife would suffer considerably with the influx of countless visitors because after all it is unnecessary development and human encroachment that will undoubtedly affect the habitat of this wildlife as well as the well being of such wildlife.

I see no plans for protection of either .

To site the standard excuse for destruction of our precious archeological, cultural, ethnographic, and sacred areas by designating these areas as being "previously impacted" is a ridiculous argument at best. You have not attempted to implement any form of protection for these sites in your plans.

To remove, desecrate, or even change these areas in anyway, shows a continuation in the lack of respect you have shown for the American Indian culture .

This prevalent lack of respect to the descendants of the Yosemite Indians is one thing the National Park Service has been consistent with in every area of the YVP.

Again, you are not addressing the irreversible harm to Cultural, Ancient, Historic, Ethnographic and sacred areas necessary to our culture and teachings of that culture to future generations.

The land in Yosemite you and your planners see is not ordinary land. It is the dust of the blood of the flesh and bones of my ancestors.

When you dig through the surface you defile and desecrate my people. The land as it is, is my blood and my dead; it is consecrated, and I don't want to give up any portion of it. I also do not want it removed , studied , cataloged and destroyed.

When you commercialize, build, and renovate you remove pieces of my culture bit by bit.

When you remove the smallest piece you erase my past and prevent my future from connecting and understanding what we as a people are all about.

Yes I can pass the message along in traditional story, but how can I truly educate and make the future generations understand if I have no viable proof , if nothing tangible is left to connect with ?

Everyone must realize that without Indian histories, the human history of this continent is not complete. Scientists will argue that they must explore and retrieve in order to understand the past and ultimately our culture. I say to them "Just ask us".

I would never be so bold as to assume that the only way to discover the workings of the Euro -American culture is to defile and desecrate your churches, tabernacles, and your dead.

I appreciate the time you have taken to review my concerns. I also hope that my concerns will be taken into consideration.

I am a lineal descent of the Yosemite Indians of the Valley .

I take my responsibility to heart and follow in the footsteps of my ancestors who were original caretakers of this Valley.

Sincerely,

Miwuk/Paiute lineal descendant of Chief Tenaya, Bridgeport Tom

CC: Mark Thornton
Dianne Feinstein

The Sacramento Bee

P.O. Box 15779 • 2100 Q Street • Sacramento CA 95852 • (916) 321-1000

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pg 1 of 5
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For your consideration
as you weigh Yosemite's
management.

Thanks!

Sacramento Bee

The Sacramento Bee

P.O. Box 15779 • 2100 Q Street • Sacramento, CA 95852

Staff Writer

sacbee.com/lifestyle

The Sacramento Bee

Section

E

MONDAY

August 23, 2004

SCENE

► COLUMNS E3 ► COMICS E6-E7 ► TELEVISION E4

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

YOSEMITE SNAPSHOTS

The park experience in summer is as varied
as the people who flock there

BY DOROTHY KORBER ~ BEE STAFF WRITER

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - While park administrators try to figure out how to "manage" paradise, thousands of visitors to Yosemite are managing just fine, thank you. They're lounging, carousing, biking, hiking, dangling, angling and exploring the national park's infinite pleasures on their own terms.

Here are some postcards from Yosemite Valley on a blissful August day - the Sierra air like silk, the towering cliffs glowing in the sunlight, the drowsy Merced River cool and clear and inviting. Wish you were here?

□ □ □

Tiffany Mealman, 19, was stuck on a rock, angled out from a granite face called Swan Slab.

Her sister and her dad, anchoring her safety line 20 feet below, called out encouragement, but Tiffany couldn't will her balky feet to move.

"You gotta do that toe-jamming thing there, Sisi!" yelled her sister Charity.

"I'm going to break my toe!" wailed Tiffany, half joking, half serious.

"That's a sacrifice you have to make," was the teasing reply. "Just don't think about it!"

► YOSEMITE, page E2

Jason Shaughnessy, 11, of El Dorado Hills sits on a rock below Vernal Falls. He was on a week's vacation with his parents.

Far right, a group of Amish travelers look over the menu outside Yosemite Lodge. A part of a large group from Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania, they had only a few hours scheduled at the park, part of a 20-day tour of the West.



SACRAMENTO BEE PHOTOGRAPHY BY RANDY PENCH

Yosemite: A meeting spot

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pg 465
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► FROM PAGE E1

The Mealman family is a handsome, energetic lot. The father, Terry, is a doctor in Phoenix. His four children take after him: Angela, 24, Charity 22, Tiffany and 17-year-old Jonathan. All are tan, blond and adventuresome.

They're spending five days in Yosemite, staying in the luxurious comfort of the Ahwahnee Hotel by night, dangling from rocks and climbing mountains by day. This morning they've hired a private instructor, Yosemite Mountaineering School guide Jeff Scheuerell, to teach them to "free climb" with their hands and feet, using the rope only for safety.

Though the other Mealmans confidently scrambled up and down the slab, Tiffany was frozen. "Switch feet!" suggested Scheuerell.

Her feet finally obeyed. Tiffany edged up the rock, then rappelled down in a few breath-taking seconds.

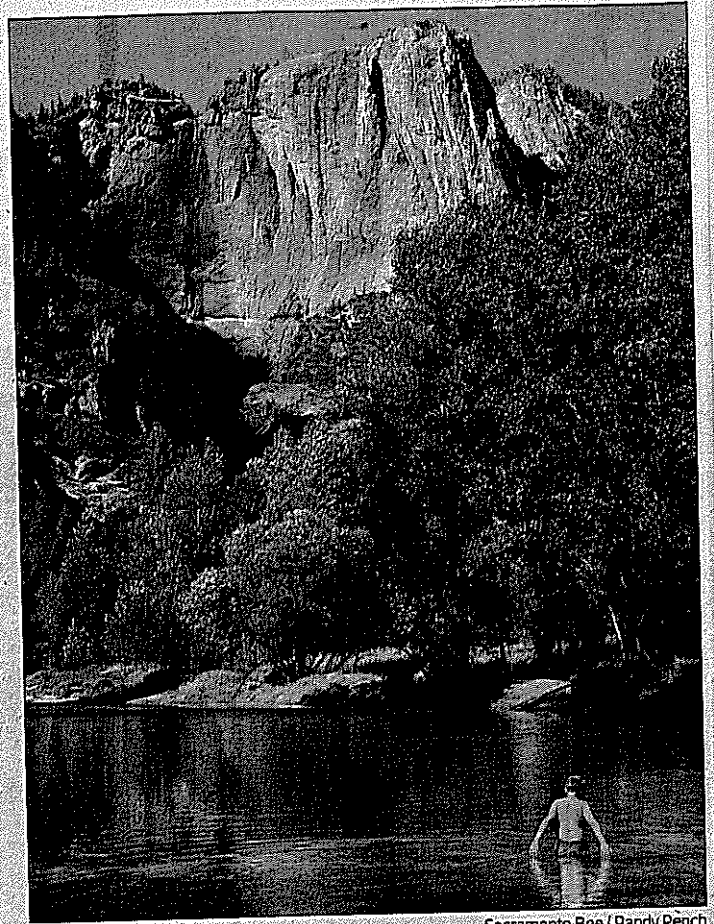
"That was scary and frustrating," she said afterward. "But fun. Really, really fun."

This was the Mealmans' first trip to Yosemite. They weren't missing a thing.

"We went on a seven-mile hike yesterday - up the Mist Trail, but there wasn't much mist," said Tiffany, a college sophomore. "I love it here. We're from Arizona - we don't see many trees, you know."

□ □ □

While the Mealmans cavorted and hollered on their granite slab, a more decorous group



Sacramento Bee / Randy Pench

With Yosemite Falls barely a trickle in the background, 9-year-old Matt Brown of Sacramento wades in the cool water of the Merced River.

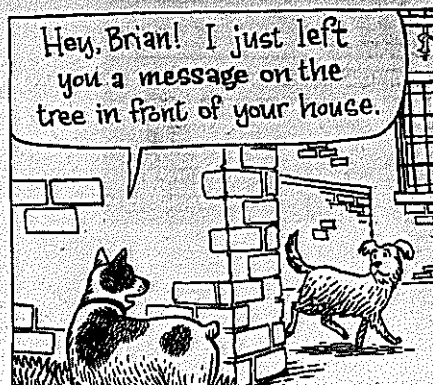
studied the lunch menu outside Yosemite Lodge. The white-bonneted women and the muton-chopped men stepped out of a postcard from the turn of the century - the 19th.

Their modest gray clothing was a somber contrast to the rainbow of T-shirts and bared

bellybuttons displayed by other tourists.

These are 56 Amish folks from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Indiana on a 20-day bus tour of the West. Already, they'd packed in Yellowstone, Mount St. Helens and Crater Lake. Now they were spending their allot-

BIZARRO by Dan Piraro



ACES ON BRIDGE

"Slow down, you move too fast."

— Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel

Bridge writers have a hard time of it, you will not be surprised to hear. Whenever anything goes wrong in their column, there is always a phalanx of critics convinced that the author has finally lost his marbles.

On today's deal will anyone believe that the deal has a misprint, since three no-trump has nine top tricks? This is particularly true because at teams, overtricks are nearly irrelevant. Well, there is many

NORTH		EAST	
♠	A 8 6 4	♠	—
♥	10 9 5	♥	J 8 7 2
♦	3	♦	Q 8 7 6 4 2
♣	A Q 6 5 2	♣	J 10 3
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	K Q J 10 7 3	♠	9 5 2
♥	Q 6 3	♥	A K 4
♦	K 9 5	♦	A J 10
♣	4	♣	K 9 8 7

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: South

The bidding:

t for generations

ted time in Yosemite: six hours.

"We go on to Fresno tonight, then to Death Valley, Las Vegas and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado," said Daniel Miller, thumbs tucked in his suspenders. He farms outside Cleveland.

"But we don't stop in Las Vegas, we just drive through," explained his wife, Nancy, with a smile.

"Never been in California before," Daniel Miller said. "It's nothing like I expected. I pictured it packed with people. Instead, it's a big state with lots of empty places and mountains."

His wife lifted her face to look up the cliff at Yosemite Falls, on this day just a moist streak on the sheer wall. She shook her head.

"This is wonderful, beautiful," she said. "There's a majesty about this place. ... Where we're from, it's rolling farmland, lush and green. We've never seen anything like this."

Most people exult in the wonderful light in Yosemite Valley – sunset's glow on Half Dome, a thousand sparkles on the river, the dancing rainbows on the falls. But Paul Kratter also exults in shadows.

Sitting at his portable easel, Kratter dabbed his brush on a palette covered with daubs of gray, gray-blue and gray-green – the same palette as the Amish dresses. On his small canvas, he was capturing Sentinel Rock, which loomed over the meadow like a brooding giant.

"I like that it's all in shadow – there's such a blue-purple cast," said Kratter, 47. "The challenge for an artist in Yosemite is to find a different view, a different way to capture a scene that's painted a lot."

He'd driven from his home in Moraga on the chance he could find a last-minute room in Yosemite Valley. He was lucky. He snared a place in the lodge. The next day he was heading to Sonora, where his work was on display at the Vault Gallery in an exhibit called "Yosemite: Here and Now."

Kratter brushed a swath of green at the base of the painted cliff. "This diagonal of green," he said, "is the kicker of the

a deep pool, doggedly doing the breast stroke. A teen girl self-consciously dipped a polished toe into the chilly water. Children laughed and splashed and screamed with glee.

A little apart, Jamie Leong of Fair Oaks sat on a comfortable log, gently rocking her sleeping baby, 11-month-old Brendan. Leong, 36, was with her extended family: two dozen folks from all over California, up for a week of family camping in Yosemite.

"It's an every-year thing," Leong said. "I married into this big Chinese/Hawaiian family, and they've been doing this in Yosemite for more than 20 years."

"We're on the phone five months ahead of time, making our campsite reservation. We're tenting it up in Crane Flat: no hot water, lanterns in the bathroom, bear claw marks on the tree."

"We drive here to this spot by the river every day. The kids play and wade and ride their scooters; the adults relax and talk and reconnect with each other."

Brendan stirred and sat up with a sleepy grin.

His mom patted him and continued: "Each separate family is responsible for one dinner. Then we stay up late at night around the campfire. The kids play cards. We laugh, we get dirty – pretty much your typical camping trip."

Under the bridge, four laughing little girls – not part of Leong's clan – floated in a small pool warmed by the sunshine. Their colorful floppy hats looked like big flowers dotting the water.

The girls paddled together, heads in the middle, tanned legs forming a star – impromptu synchronized swimming in the Merced.

On the bridge above, their parents applauded and snapped digital pictures. The girls were two sets of sisters; their families first met during a visit to Disney World over Christmas and decided to reconvene in Yosemite this summer.

"We're having real fun," said one of the moms, Hyomin Cho of Rockville, Md. She said her

Kratter brushed a swath of green at the base of the painted cliff. "This diagonal of green," he said, "is the kicker of the painting."

Though Kratter was working near a main road, the setting was peaceful – and nearly empty of people. Dragonflies floated lazily over the cattails in the meadow, and the breeze sighed through the big oak that shaded him.

"I'm 10 yards off the trail," he said, "yet it's pretty serene here, even in the middle of summer."

□ □ □

Downriver a half-mile, "serene" isn't the adjective that jumps to mind. Actually, "jumping" is more like it.

Welcome to Swinging Bridge. Here, on a wide sandy beach under Sentinel Rock, dozens of families gathered to while away the hot afternoon.

Ice chests and beach towels dotted the riverbank. Two barrel-chested men churned across

this summer.

"We're having real fun," said one of the moms, Hyomin Cho of Rockville, Md. She said her 8-year-old daughter, Hyejune, had ridden her first horse on a trail ride the day before. "She said it was amazing."

"It was amazing," Hyejune called up from beneath the bridge. "His name was Smokey. He was white. He was a really good horse."

The other dad, Howard Hartenbaum, strolled up. A native Californian, he and his family now live in Luxembourg.

"The four kids had so much fun together in Florida that we planned this trip," he said. On cue, the girls giggled uncontrollably. Hartenbaum waved at them, then took a deep breath of the balmy air. "What can I say? It's just a perfect summer day."

□ □ □

The Bee's Dorothy Korber can be reached at (916) 321-1061 or dkorber@sacbee.com.

How do you use Yosemite?

The National Park Service is seeking input from the public on how to manage Yosemite. This "scoping" process is part of a court-ordered review of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan. The deadline for submitting written comments is Friday.

Among other things, the NPS is looking for comments on how you use Yosemite and how plans for the park might affect your own use and enjoyment of it.

Your comments can be submitted by fax to (209) 379-1294, by e-mail to yose_planning@nps.gov or by mail to Yosemite National Park Superintendent, Attention: Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite CA 95389.

For more information on this and other Yosemite planning efforts: www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

— Dorothy Korber

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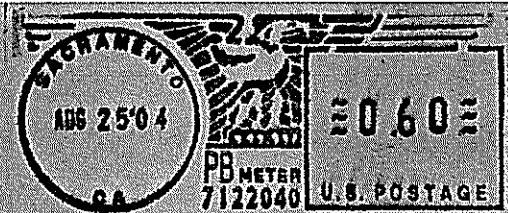
SETTING IT

It is The Bee's policy to acknowledge the daily Scene and weekly features page 2 of section A as well as on this sections should be called to the attention of Editor Pam Dinsmore, (916) 321-10.

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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
Post Office Box 577
Yosemite, California 93589

Dear Superintendent,

The National Park Service must take immediate action to preserve what is left of the Wild & Scenic qualities of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley:

- 1.) eliminate (wide screen) television in Yosemite...
People do not visit metropolitan areas in order to experience unique mountain beauty; we should not be visiting Yosemite to watch (football games) on television. We can drop in at any sports bar, if we wish, in Oakland, L.A., Modesto, Stockton, etc.;
- 2.) except in the restaurants, eliminate the sale of alcoholic beverages in Yosemite. We can bring our own beverage into the Park, but we do not need drunken teen-agers in Yosemite Valley shouting over & over at 3am, "WHERE'S ELMO? WHERE'S ELMO?";
- 3.) apply a \$250. ticket on the windshield of any car when its alarm sounds in Yosemite. Hearing car alarms while hiking up Yosemite Falls trail defiles the beauty of Yosemite. (In confirming reservations, and in brochures promoting Yosemite) the Park Service can place a notice that a \$250.-fine will be enforced upon cars that sound an alarm while in Yosemite. Motorists who may object to this fine for disturbing the peace can take the bus into Yosemite from Merced, or disconnect their car alarm while in Yosemite;
- 4.) do not install television in any of the rooms in Yosemite. The Park Service has no obligation to accommodate visitors with the amenities of over-development. Rather, the Park Service has been entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the natural ambiance of the Merced River in Yosemite;
- 5.) remove the swimming pool from Yosemite Lodge. Visitors who wish to swim in Yosemite Valley really ought to try the Merced. We can swim in chlorine-laced water in Fresno, Frankfurt, Tokyo, etc.;
- 6.) from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day prohibit private automobiles in Yosemite Valley. In June, July & August farm-out to Greyhound the transportation of Park-visitors from Modesto, Fresno, Manteca, Lee Vining where folks could park in unpaved lots 90 days of the year. Offer generous family rates for this shuttling;
- 7.) keep the horse in front of the cart — the Merced River Plan, being the horse, must draw the cart, the Yosemite Valley Plan... rather than taking a "scotch-tape & paper-clip" approach of placing out-of-context, piece-meal patches here and there;
- 8.) extend the public comment period to Dec. 15th '04. It is an insult to the National Park Service, the public, and Yosemite to have written comments due a mere eleven days after public hearings began August 16th. Also, the National Park Service should run Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s) on the radio, alerting the public to the Park Service's seeking comments on the Merced River Plan.

People want to visit Yosemite for its unique beauty of waterfalls, granite cliffs, rivers, and woodlands — to get away from over-development. The majority of Park-visitors prefer Yosemite without the onslaught of television, car-alarms, booze, and swimming pools.

Sincerely,

cc: U.S. Senator Boxer
U.S. Representative Barbara Lee
Friends of Yosemite Valley
Sierra Club
et al.

BERKELEY, CALIF

att'n: Merced River Plan/SEIS

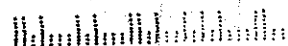
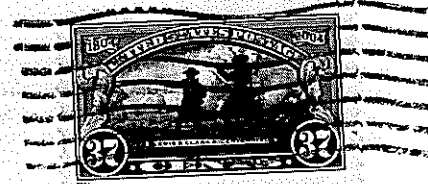
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Yosemite National Park Superintendent

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To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc: Yose_Superintendent@nps.gov
Subject: scoping comment for Revised Merced River CMP

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park;
Planning Office;
Yosemite, CA 95389

Sunday, September 5, 2004.

Dear Sirs:

With respect to scoping comments for the Revised Comprehensive Management Plan (MRP) for the Wild and Scenic Merced River,

1. Previously, zoning for the Yosemite Valley Plan has been shepherded into or subsumed under the MRP. This should not continue to occur. Rather, the MRP should take precedence.
2. Land uses as they impact on Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's) should be revisited. This would enable a more rational approach to rewriting the MRP than in the first instance. Rather than constraining identified ORV's which conflicted with the agency's apparent need to limit said values in order to enable new development to occur in many previously undisturbed areas such as that proposed in the Utilities projects, an approach that allows broader protection and preservation for the ORV's should be taken. Air quality should be included in the list of ORV's. The argument in the first instance that is is not specifically river-related is specious.
3. The MRP should be rewritten so that the approximately 12 categories of zoning articulated in the Yosemite Valley Plan can be eliminated outright. Again, the MRP should take precedence over the YVP and other planning and/or development agendas the agency has or may develop in the future.

Regards,

Fremont, CA

Comments (continued)

AUG 30 2004 Page 2

RMR 5-40

Pg 2062

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Campsites currently are overused and not monitored
Some sites exceeding stated limits

Bathrooms become very overused and unclean

1. Bearproof wastebins in bathrooms would help
2. Additional cleanup - again feasibility is questionable (add personnel 2D-)

Bike use seems excessive - ~~4~~ Some trails have excessive usage - Monitoring would be very difficult unless again additional personnel used to do this (employees or volunteers)

Monitoring of campsites - early eve to insure all campers understand bear warnings and what to do

Again with limited information and knowledge I oppose:

- 1.) Removing Ahwahnee and Sugar Pine Bridge

- 2.) Bicycling on meadow boardwalks

- 3.) Adding full hookups for R.V.s in any part of the park

Generally - the park is beautiful and well maintained to (best at this time) possibility. Many changes are confusing and cause rumors to explode.
Thank you

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AHN: Revised Merced River Plan/SEIS
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